

CONFIDENTIAL

12 October 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Mike Corson

SUBJECT: Short History of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union (Official Edition)

1. We are interested in the various editions of subject document. This interest springs from information received from a sociologist competent in the Russian language who asserts there have been previous editions to the officially approved 1938 edition as well as one or more subsequent editions. It is our firm opinion that a critical analysis of these various editions may produce useful substance.

2. We have attempted to locate, in Russian, copies of editions other than the 1938 edition which was translated into English in 1939. The Library of Congress, Department of State, and CIA sources reveal no record of officially approved editions prior to 1938 and further indicate that the editions printed in 1943, 1945, and 1950 are merely reprints of the 1938 official document. We are assuming that these sources have been exhausted.

3. It is our desire that the appropriate persons be approached informally to learn whether such a study has already been undertaken. Preliminary inquiry may indicate that this has already been a subject of considerable research. Further, if no such study has previously been made, would consider that they could undertake an investigation and analysis of this kind? It is recognized that such a study will require competence in philosophical analysis as well as translation ability.

4. We will appreciate your discussing informally this item with your contacts at your convenience, and letting us know when and what action on our part is then appropriate.

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